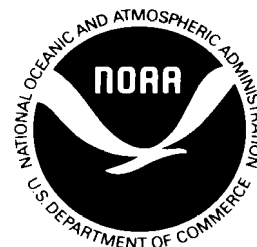


Marine Mammal Closed Area Regulations



SEASONAL MARINE MAMMAL CLOSURE AREAS

All persons owning or operating gillnet vessels must remove all gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies from the following areas and may not use, set, haul back, fish with, or possess on board such gear, unless stowed in accordance with the net stowage requirements. Vessels using pelagic gillnets/baitnets (see page 4 for definition) are exempt from these closures.

New England Closure Areas

- ▶ **Northeast Closure Area** - This area is closed August 15 through September 13 to all vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies.

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
Maine shoreline	68 55.0' W.
43 29.6' N.	68 55.0' W.
44 04.4' N.	67 48.7' W.
44 06.9' N.	67 52.8' W.
44 31.2' N.	67 02.7' W.
Maine shoreline	67 02.7' W.

- ▶ **Mid-Coast Closure Area** - This area is closed September 15 through May 31 to all vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies except gillnet vessel using pingers deployed on the nets according to the specifications found on page 4. Vessel operators are required to have a certification of pinger training aboard the vessel while operating in this area (see page 4 for details).

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
42 30' N.	Massachusetts shoreline
42 30' N.	70 15' W.
42 40' N.	70 15' W.
42 40' N.	70 00' W.
43 00' N.	70 00' W.
43 00' N.	69 30' W.
43 30' N.	69 30' W.
43 30' N.	69 00' W.
Maine shoreline	69 00' W.

- ▶ **Massachusetts Bay Closure Area** - This area is closed December 1 through February 28 (or 29) and April 1 through May 31 to vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies except gillnet vessel using pingers deployed on the nets according to the specifications found on page 4. Vessel operators are required to have a certification of pinger training aboard the vessel while operating in this area (see page 4 for details). This area is closed March 1 through March 31 to all vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies.

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
42 30' N.	Massachusetts shoreline
42 30' N.	70 30' W.
42 12' N.	70 30' W.
42 12' N.	70 00' W.
Cape Cod shoreline	70 00' W.
42 00' N.	Cape Cod shoreline
42 00' N.	Massachusetts shoreline

- **Cape Cod South Closure Area** - This area is closed December 1 through February 28 (or 29) and April 1 through May 31 to vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies except gillnet vessel using pingers deployed on the nets according to the specifications found on page 4. Vessel operators are required to have a certification of pinger training aboard the vessel while operating in this area (see page 4 for details). This area is closed March 1 through March 31 to all vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies.

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
Rhode Island shoreline	71°45' W.
40 40' N.	71 45' W.
40 40' N.	70 30' W.
Massachusetts shoreline	70 30' W.

- **Offshore Closure Area** - This area is closed November 1 through May 31 to vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies except gillnet vessel using pingers deployed on the nets according to the specifications found on page 4. Vessel operators are required to have a certification of pinger training aboard the vessel while operating in this area (see page 4 for details). The area within the Offshore Closure Area defined as Cashes Ledge Closure area is closed February 1 through February 28 (or 29) to all vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies.

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
42°50' N.	69°30' W.
43 10' N.	69 10' W.
43°10' N.	67 40' W.
42°10' N.	67 40' W.
42°10' N.	69°30' W.
42°50' N.	69°30' W.

- **Cashes Ledge Closure Area** - This area is closed February 1 through February 28 (or 29) to vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies.

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
42°30' N.	69°00' W.
42 30' N.	68 30' W.
43°00' N.	68 30' W.
43°00' N.	69 00' W.
42°30' N.	69°00' W.

- **Cape Cod Bay Critical Habitat Closure Area** - This area is closed January 1 through May 15 to all vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies. Please be advised that state waters of Cape Cod Bay east of 70°30' W. Longitude are also designated as Critical Habitat and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has closed this area to gillnet vessels during this same time frame.

Latitude	Longitude
42°12' N.	70°30' W.
42 12' N.	70 15' W.
42°08' N.	70 12.4' W.
then westerly along the 3 NM state boundary to	
42°08' N.	70°30' W.

- **Great South Channel Critical Habitat Closure Area** - This area is closed April 1 through June 30 to all vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies.

Latitude	Longitude
41°02.2' N.	69°02' W.
41 43.5' N.	69 36.3' W.
42 10' N.	68 31' W.
41°38' N.	68 13' W.

Mid-Atlantic Closure Areas

- **Waters Off New Jersey Closure Area** - This area is closed January 1 through April 30 to vessels using large or small mesh gillnet gear unless the gillnet gear meets the gear modifications specified below. This area is closed April 1 through April 20 to all vessels using large mesh gillnet gear.

This area is defined as all state and Federal waters off New Jersey, bounded on the north by a line extending eastward from the southern shoreline of Long Island, NY at 40°40' N. latitude, on the south by a line extending eastward from the northern shoreline of Delaware at 38°47' M. latitude (Cape Henlopen, DE), and on the east by the 72°30' W. longitude.

- **Mudhole Closure Area** - This area is closed February 15 through March 15 to vessels using large or small mesh gillnet gear.

This area is defined as waters off New Jersey bounded from the point 40°30' N. latitude where it intersects with the shoreline of New Jersey east to its intersection with 73°20' W. longitude, then south to its intersection with 40°05' N. latitude, then west to its intersection with the shoreline of New Jersey.

- **Southern Mid-Atlantic Waters Closure Area** - This area is closed February 1 through April 30 to vessels using large or small mesh gillnet gear unless the gillnet gear meets the gear modifications specified below. This area is closed February 15 through March 15 to all vessels using large mesh gillnet gear.

This area is defined as all state and Federal waters off the States of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina, bounded on the north by a line extending eastward from the northern shoreline of Delaware at 38°47' N. latitude (Cape Henlopen, DE), east to its intersection with 72°30' W. longitude, south to the 33°51' N. latitude (North Carolina/South Carolina border), and then west to its intersection with the shoreline of the North Carolina/South Carolina border.

Mid-Atlantic Management Measures for the Large Mesh Gillnet Fishery - *Includes Gillnet With Mesh Size Greater Than 7 Inches (17.78cm) to 18 Inches (45.72cm)*

- ▶ **Floatline length:**
 - New Jersey Mudhole - Less than or equal to 3,900 ft (1188.7 m).
 - New Jersey Waters (excluding the Mudhole) - Less than or equal to 4,800 ft (1463.0 m).
 - Southern Mid-Atlantic waters - Less than or equal to 3,900 feet (1188.7 m).
- ▶ **Twine Size:** All Mid-Atlantic Waters - Greater than or equal to .90 mm (.035 inches).
- ▶ **Tie Downs:** All Mid-Atlantic Waters - Required.
- ▶ **Net Cap:** All Mid-Atlantic Waters - 80 nets.
- ▶ **Net Size:** A net must be no longer than 300 feet (91.4m) long.
- ▶ **Net Tagging:** Requires all nets to be tagged by January 01, 2000.

Mid-Atlantic Management Measures for the Small Mesh Gillnet Fishery - Includes Gillnet with Mesh Size of Greater Than 5 Inches (12.7 cm) to Less Than 7 Inches (17.78cm)

- ▶ **Floatline Length:**
 - New Jersey waters - Less than or equal to 3,000 feet (914.4 m).
 - Southern Mid-Atlantic waters - Less than or equal to 2,118 feet (645.6 m).
- ▶ **Twine Size:** All Mid-Atlantic waters - Greater than or equal to .81 mm (.031 inches).
- ▶ **Net Cap:** All Mid-Atlantic waters - 45 nets.
- ▶ **Net Size:** A net must be no longer than 300 feet (91.4m) long.
- ▶ **Net Tagging:** Requires all nets to be tagged by January 1, 2000.

TRANSITING MARINE MAMMAL SEASONAL CLOSURES

Vessels may transit these areas during the closure periods, provided that the gear is stowed in accordance with the regulations summarized below.

GEAR STOWAGE REQUIREMENTS

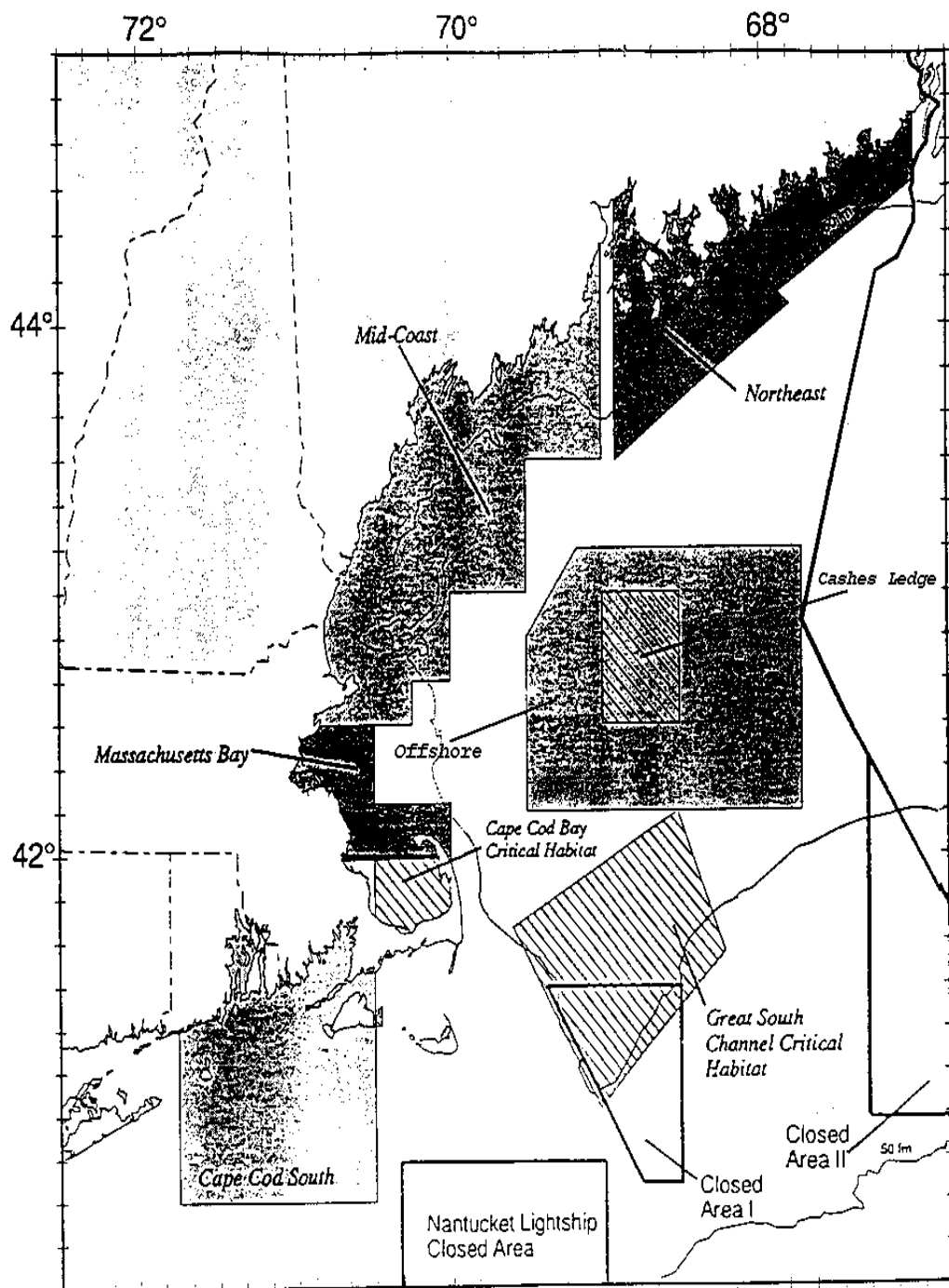
All sink gillnets are covered with canvas or other similar material and lashed or otherwise securely fastened to the deck or rail, and all buoys larger than 6 inches (15.24 cm) in diameter, high flyers, and anchors are disconnected .

Pelagic Gillnet (Baitnet) Gear: During the marine mammal time/area closures a pelagic gillnet is defined as a single gillnet not capable of catching multispecies, not longer than 300 feet and not greater than 6 feet deep, with a maximum mesh size of 3 inches; the net must be attached to the vessel, fished in the upper two-thirds of the water column and must be marked with the owner's name and vessel identification number.

Pinger Specifications: A pinger is an acoustic deterrent device which, when immersed in water, broadcasts a 10 kHz (± 2 kHz) sound at 132 dB (± 4 dB) re 1 micropascal at 1 m, lasting 300 milliseconds (± 15 milliseconds), and repeating every 4 seconds ($\pm .2$ seconds).

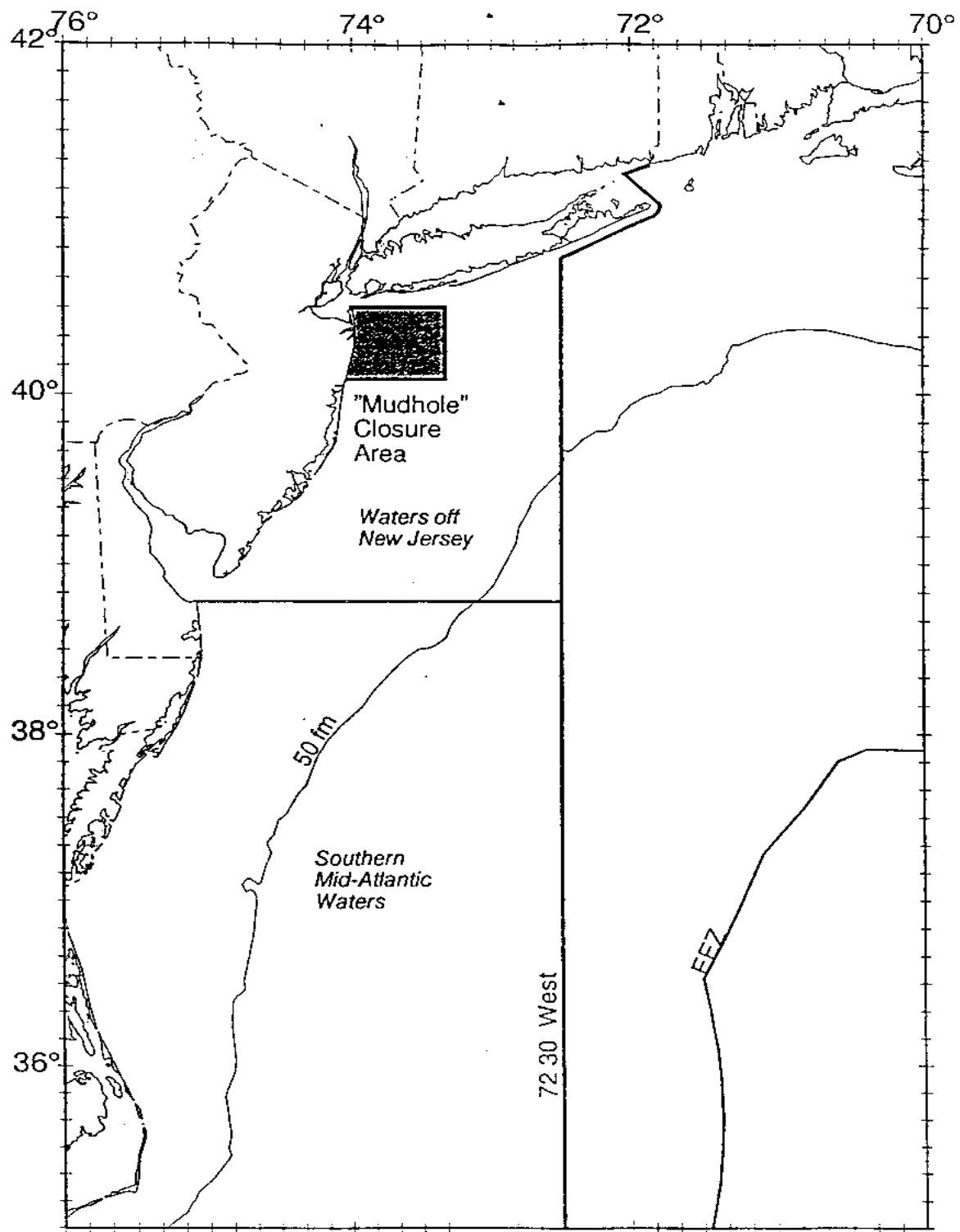
Pinger Attachment: A pinger must be attached at the end of each string of the gillnets and at the bridle of every net within a string of nets.

Pinger Training and Certification: Beginning January 1, 1999, the operator of a vessel may not fish with, set or haul back sink gillnets or gillnet gear, or allow such gear to be in closed areas where pingers are required unless the operator has satisfactorily completed the pinger certification training program and possesses on board the vessel a valid pinger training certificate issued by NMFS. For more information on training dates, please contact the Protected Resource Division at (978) 281-9328.



New England Marine Mammal Closed Areas

This is a simplified summary of the measures in effect under the Harbor porpoise Take Reduction Plan (HPTRP). This summary has no legal standing. You should request a copy of the official rules as published in the Federal Register.



Mid-Atlantic Marine Mammal Closed Areas

This is a simplified summary of the measures in effect under the Harbor porpoise Take Reduction Plan (HPTRP). This summary has no legal standing. You should request a copy of the official rules as published in the Federal Register.